Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended herein.

Claims 1-15, 19 and 20 have been allowed; claims 17-18 have been canceled and claim 16 has been rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Theyse, Patent No. 4,223,240. Claim 16 has been amended to specify that the mechanical rolling element bearing has inner and outer races, and balls that rotate about the vertical axis as the flywheel rotates, and that the mechanical rolling element bearing is located at one axial end of the flywheel and provides axial stabilization for the flywheel. These details are believed to distinguish patentably over Theyse.

New claims 21 and 22 have been added to claim the energy storage flywheel supported for rotation about a vertical axis on a combination bearing system using a mechanical rolling element bearing at a first axial end of said flywheel, and a magnetic bearing at a second axial end of said flywheel. The mechanical bearing is a rolling element bearing having inner and outer races and balls that rotate about the vertical axis as the flywheel rotates. Applicants believe this claim clearly distinguishes patentably over Theyse.

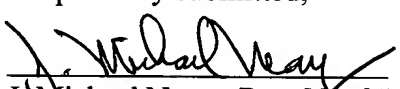
For the Examiner's information, there are presently three applications pending that have somewhat related subject matter. These applications and the Examiner responsible for each are listed below, along with the status of each application.

A. "Improved Combination Mechanical and Magnetic Support for a Flywheel Power Supply "
09/927307 - Filed 08/10/01
Status: Allowed 4/18/03
Examiner: Dang D. Le A.U. 2834

B. "Flywheel Energy Storage System with Quill Stabilizer"
10/005,825 - Filed 11/08/01
Status: Claims 1-15, 19 & 20 allowed 6/20/03
Examiner: Dang D. Le A.U. 2834

C. "Axially Free Flywheel System"
10/232,793 - Filed 08/28/02
Status: Pending
Examiner: Tran Nguyen A.U. 2834

Respectfully submitted,



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